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### UM student journalism among nation's best

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UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • MISSOULA, MT 59812 • 406.243.2522 • FAX: 406.243.4520

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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May 14, 2008

**Contact:** Denise Dowling, associate professor, UM Department of Radio-Television, 406-243-4143, [denise.dowling@umontana.edu](mailto:denise.dowling@umontana.edu); Scott Leadingham, communications coordinator, Society of Professional Journalists, 317-927-8000 ex. 211, [sleadingham@spj.org](mailto:sleadingham@spj.org).

### **UM STUDENT JOURNALISM AMONG NATION'S BEST**

#### **MISSOULA –**

Students from The University of Montana School of Journalism earned five top national awards from the Society of Professional Journalists for work published or broadcast in 2008.

Of UM's 14 first-place winners from the Northwest regional competition, three emerged as winners and two became finalists in the national Mark of Excellence Awards.

The awards recognized one winner and two finalists in 39 categories from more than 3,600 entries this year.

The 2008 radio-television student documentary, "Dear Mom," won best in-depth reporting piece for television. The documentary, produced in a spring semester course, chronicles the stories of four mothers in Montana's prison system. "Dear Mom" has won several regional, national and international awards since its premier on Montana PBS last year.

Individual awards went to the following students:

- Jessica Mayrer, of **Missoula**, took the top spot nationally in Editorial Writing.
- Tess McEnroe, of **Minneapolis, Minn.**, was named the national winner in Breaking News Photography for a piece titled "Nepali Protest."
- Liam Scholey, of **Panama City, Panama**, and Breanna Roy, of **Missoula**, became national finalists in Television Sports Reporting for "Overcoming Obstacles."



- Roman Stubbs, of **Great Falls**, earned a finalist spot for Sports Writing with “Playing for Keeps in Deer Lodge.”

UM’s winners and finalists will be recognized in August during the 2009 SPJ Convention & National Journalism Conference in Indianapolis. The broad-based organization of journalists is dedicated to supporting the free practice of journalism and high standards of ethical behavior.

For more information, go to <http://www.spj.org/news.asp?REF=891#891>, call Associate Professor Denise Dowling at 406-243-4143 or e-mail [denise.dowling@umontana.edu](mailto:denise.dowling@umontana.edu).

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